



MONTEREY NEWS

September 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 9



The Town

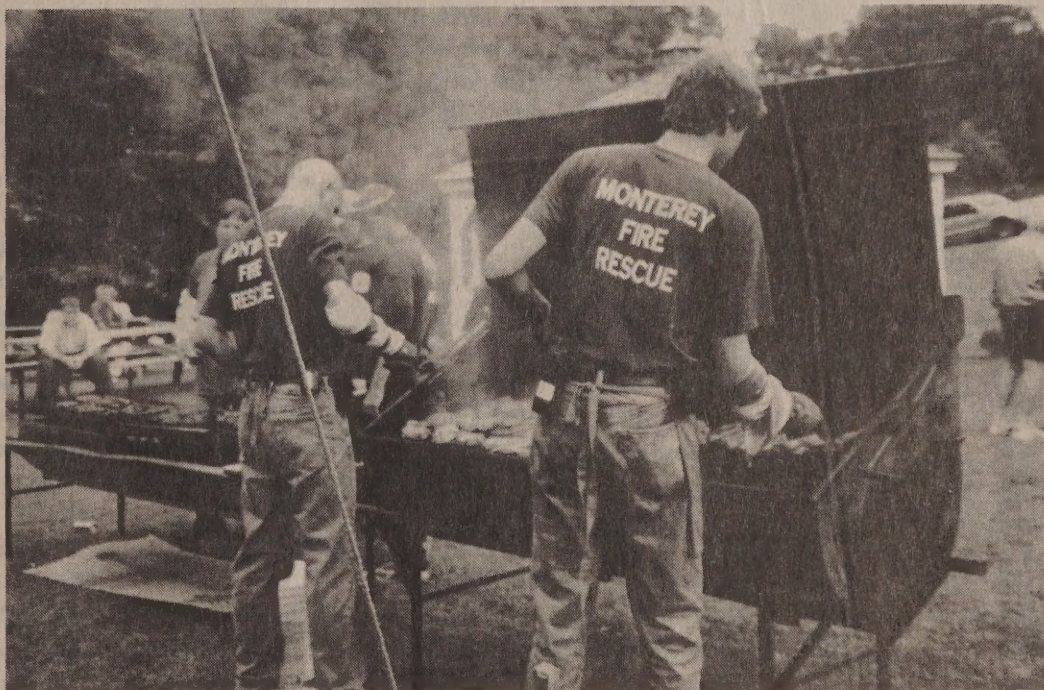
Broken Water Pipe

Closes Playground

The Greene Park playground was closed and roped off by the Monterey Board of Health in the week of August 21 when sewage-laden water was discovered bubbling up through the wood-chip mulch. The playground sits on top of the leach field for the town offices sewage system, and it was at first feared that there was a broken sewage pipe or some other problem with the system. The cause of the problem turned out not to be with the septic system but with a water main in the vicinity that had burst and saturated the leach field, causing its contents to bubble up through the playground. At the time of this writing, the water main has been replaced and the leach field is drying out and functioning properly. The playground will remain closed until the equipment has been decontaminated and the wood chips replaced. The Board of Health and the Park Commission are seriously considering moving the playground to another location in Greene Park.

Portions of Wilson House Demolished

After much discussion and consideration of the advice of three independent consultants and Town Counsel Hugh Cowig, the Select Board, the Edith Wilson House Committee, and



Paul Makuc and Del Martin cook them to perfection at Firemen's Steak Roast, July 29.

the Finance Committee decided unanimously that the added-on portions of the Edith Wilson house on New Marlborough Road should be demolished because they were beyond repair and in such a deteriorating state that they could cause damage to the main structure. The Town Counsel made it clear that this action is within the jurisdiction of these town boards and does not violate the terms of Edith Wilson's will, which bequeathed the Wilson/McLaughlin property to the Town after Edith's death in July 1995. The demolition was scheduled to take place on August 28. The original, main structure will be left intact, and the discussion of how the Town can best use the property will continue; all townspeople are encouraged to join this discussion.

Possible Rabies Alert

In recent weeks there have been five reports of raccoons seen roaming in broad daylight and exhibiting other unusual raccoon behavior. The animals were killed in each instance because such behavior can be an indication they are infected with rabies. One of the bodies was taken to a local veterinarian to possibly be sent on to the appropriate state agency to be tested for the disease, but at this writing it is unknown whether this has been done. Residents and guests are advised to be wary and stay away from any animals acting strangely. Four of the recent sightings were near the center of town, so parents are especially advised to take proper precautions for their children playing in Greene Park or other areas.

New Hours for Building Inspector

The building inspector's hours at the Monterey town offices have been changed from Friday afternoons to every Monday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Transfer Station Open Labor Day

Due to the popularity of the special hours last year, the transfer station will be open on Labor Day again this year. On Monday, September 4, the transfer station will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate second homeowners who will be moving that weekend. A sign will be posted at the Town Hall as a reminder.

Land-Use Survey Initiated

On August 7, the Selectboard met with Henry Granger of Kelly, Granger, and Parsons to discuss a proposal for a land-use survey of all of the Town properties. The recent town survey indicated that Monterey residents are interested in a land-use survey which will then help the Town decide how best to use its land.

Granger completed an initial land survey this month, which included reviewing all of the land that the Town of Monterey owns. There are approximately twenty parcels of town-owned property, many of which are forests and wetlands. Two of the major pieces of town-owned land are the Edith Wilson property and the land behind the ballfield in town. A more in-depth study is yet to come, which will include walking the land. Granger will then be able to give the Town advice concerning what the best uses of the land could be. Although no decisions have been made yet, the Town hopes to gain specific knowledge of what kind of land it owns and what the best uses of it are.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is continuing to work on establishing a mobile unit to pick up

hazardous waste in Monterey. Part of this process includes beginning to use the depository in Great Barrington, rather than the depository in Lee, which the Town currently uses. It is hoped that the mobile collection unit will be operational by this fall, but no firm dates have been set for this. Hazardous waste includes items such as paint thinner, antifreeze, and used car batteries and motor oil. Until the collection unit is up and running, please either keep these items or make an appointment with the Great Barrington Transfer Station to receive them. (See p. 7 for related story about household hazardous waste collection dates.)

Renovations to Basketball Court

The Park Commission has been working to improve the basketball courts behind the town hall. These renovations will include repaving and repainting the court and setting up new basketball hoops, backboards, and poles. The court will also be enlarged by five feet. Tri-Town Paving of Lee has been contracted for the paving portion of this project, and the new hoops have been ordered. Due to weather and other constraints, the work has not been started, but the Park Commission is hoping that the work can be completed in the fall. The Park Commission began

collecting money for this project in July of last year, and donations were steady through last October. The commission wishes to thank the residents of Monterey for their generosity in supporting this endeavor.

Gould Farm Barn Raised

"I Love Monterey Day" was a festive and celebratory event at Gould Farm, as many friends and supporters from Monterey came out to help the Farm raise the frame for a new food processing barn. The Timber Framers' Guild, South County Joiners, and the Massachusetts Portable Sawmill Owners Association joined with many local supporters to help the Farm bring a dream to reality. The Gould Farm Community wishes to thank all of those who participated by lifting walls, signing pegs, lending their spirits, and dancing the night away in the new barn.

Paving Tyringham Road Continues

The Highway Department, under the direction of Don Amstead, has again begun work on repaving Tyringham Road. This is a continuing project that was started last summer by paving from Route 23 to Hupi Road. Monterey received less money from the State for highway maintenance this year, but Tyringham Road remains a priority,



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and it is hoped that the Highway Department will be able to repave the road to the top of the hill. The work also includes cutting ditches and improving the drainage of the road. Roger Tryon and Leigh Tryon Construction, both of Monterey, have submitted bids for equipment and operators needed for the project. Plans are to finish repaving the road to the town line next year.

New Pastor for Monterey Church

The Monterey United Church of Christ is happy to announce the calling of Heidi Haverkamp as lay pastor. Heidi has been attending the church and working at Gould Farm for two years, and is pursuing a career in ministry. She grew up in Chicago and graduated in 1998 from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, where she studied theology and English and provided leadership for several campus spiritual groups. She enjoys writing, knitting, gardening, and travel. She will be moving into the parsonage and is eager to become involved in the town community. The townspeople of Monterey are invited and encouraged to attend her installation service on Sunday, September 24, at the Meeting House at 10 o'clock in the morning. A reception will follow.

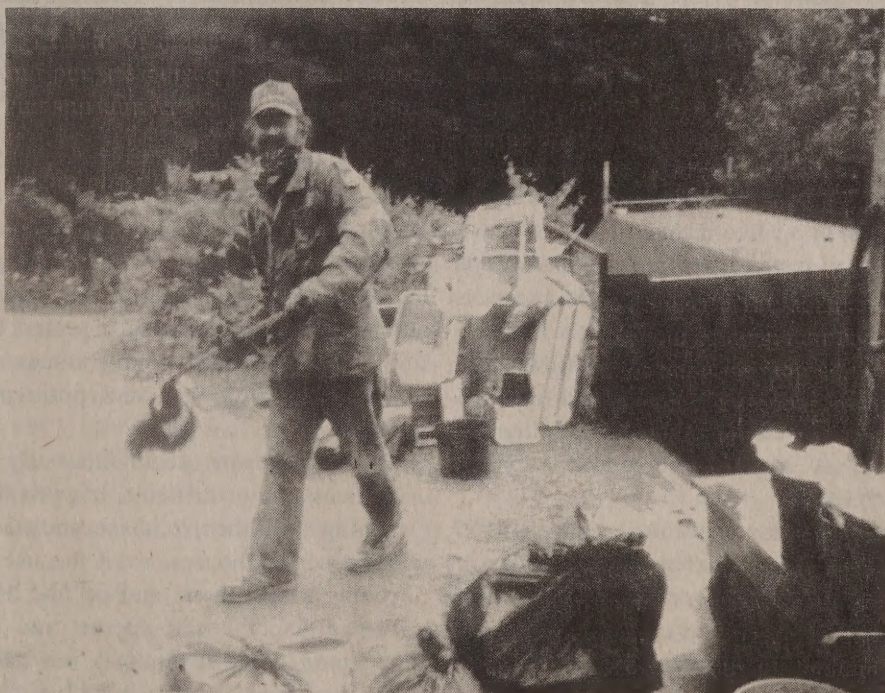
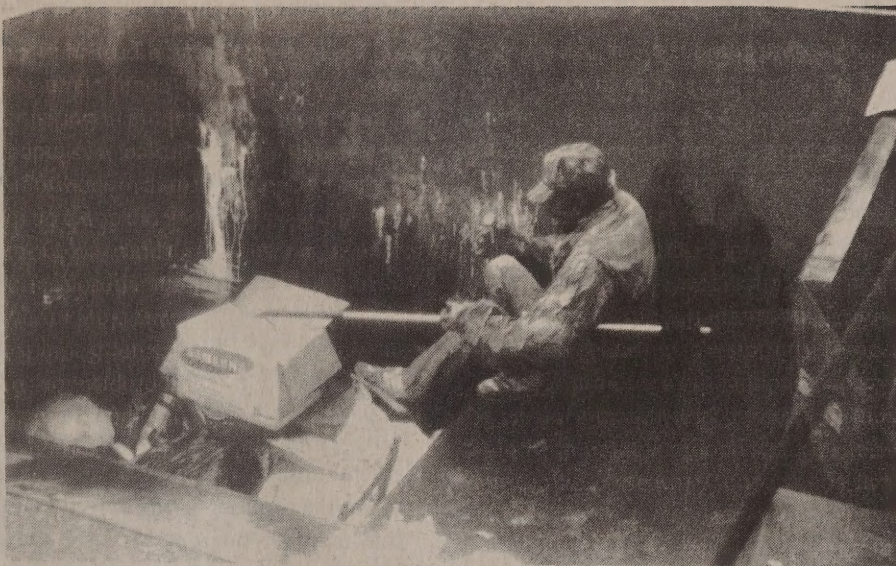
Monterey School Expands

The Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee recently approved a pilot initiative for the Monterey Kindergarten program for the 2000-2001 term. The early kindergarten program will be open this year to youngsters who will turn five years of age between September 1, 2000, and August 31, 2001. The spaces available for new students have been filled for the coming school year. For more information, parents are asked to call the office of Elementary Principal John Peron at (413) 229-8754.

Lake Garfield Drawdown

The Lake Garfield Association expects to recommend to the Conservation Commission that the annual drawdown begin October 1, 2000.

— Melissa Hochstetler



When the Monterey transfer station opened on Wednesday morning, July 16, there was a surprise in the compactor—a skunk, no less, which obviously knew it had found a good thing and was reluctant to come out. Fortunately, Dale Duryea was among the first to arrive, and, using his handy skunk-extraction tool, was able to relocate the skunk to if not richer, at least greener pastures. Fortunately also, George Emmons happened to be on hand with his camera to record Dale's feat.

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House Rules

The Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals met to discuss a range of legal and procedural issues on Wednesday, July 19. Members present (Chairman Peter Vallianos, Dean Amidon, Peter Murkett, and Cynthia Weber—Robert Gauthier was out of town—and alternates Mark Makuc and Gige O'Connell) voted unanimously to institute regular meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month in the town offices. These will be informational sessions open to all. The subject will be Monterey zoning bylaws, the state laws enabling Massachusetts communities to write their own bylaws, and recent caselaw as it applies to Monterey. We also voted to write regularly on these issues in the *Monterey News*.

Maggie Leonard began her account of zoning in Monterey for the sesquicentennial local history with these words: "The history of the Monterey Planning Board may or may not conjure visions of intrigue, yet that was the atmosphere surrounding the inception of zoning in Monterey. It's a history replete with anonymous leaflets circulated in town, underhanded machinations at the state house, and hotly contested elections decided by a hair's breadth."

At the annual town meeting in 1957, Barbara and Richard Tryon first spoke in favor of formal planning for the growth of Monterey. It took two years before voters approved an article establishing a local planning board, whose

first members included Dean Amidon, presently vice chairman of the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals. Another seven years of convoluted politics followed, and Monterey finally adopted a zoning bylaw in December of 1966, by a vote of 120 in favor to 110 opposed.

The close-vote, emotional landscape has not changed. In 1997, the Monterey ZBA voted to deny an application for a special permit submitted by the owner of a nonconforming structure. The vote (three to grant, two to deny) was favorable—but not favorable enough, since state law allows no more than one dissenting vote on a five-member board to grant a special permit. A long and impassioned letter written to the Monterey Planning Board following this ruling details what the author, an advocate for the party denied, regarded as injustice amounting to a "tragedy of events." Only last winter, the Monterey Planning Board filed suit against the Monterey Appeals Board in state Superior Court over another ruling of the ZBA regarding a nonconforming property. The action was withdrawn after a short period, but the point remains: zoning issues are emotionally charged and politically vexed.

Montereyans are not unusually argumentative or difficult. It's just that zoning limits the size, shape, and placement of our houses, even the use of rooms within them, and no one likes this. Balancing self-interest and the common good at home is inevitably touchy. Then, the person with a ready

notion of the common good may also be quick to explain why his own case is an exception. Small wonder that the politics get thick fast. Laws intended to stake out individual rights and define what is best for all can work both ways: zoning can crush the good faith plans of homeowners for their property as well as the greed of a heartless developer, and its shortcomings can crush the good faith vision of town planners for the future of their community. Zoning has real consequences.

Planning differs from hearing cases. Planning board members are legislators, charged with formulating a vision of the future, then crafting legal means to realize the vision. It is a daunting task, given that the best intentions and sharpest conceptions often become blunt instruments as they slog their way into democratically established law over time, in constantly changing social, economic, and natural environments. The job is visionary, open-ended. It is also political: state law allows latitude in the degree of limitation local zoning imposes on land use. One planning board may develop strict rules, and another may favor loose regulation, each acting according to its vision of the common good. Either approach must then be pitched to voters. Radical plans risk rejection at the polls, perhaps leaving a void in regulation.

The appeals board applies the zoning bylaw to specific cases as they hear

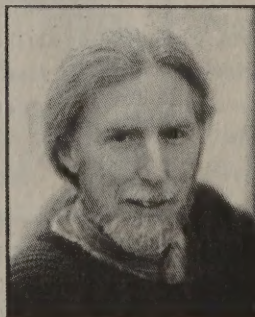
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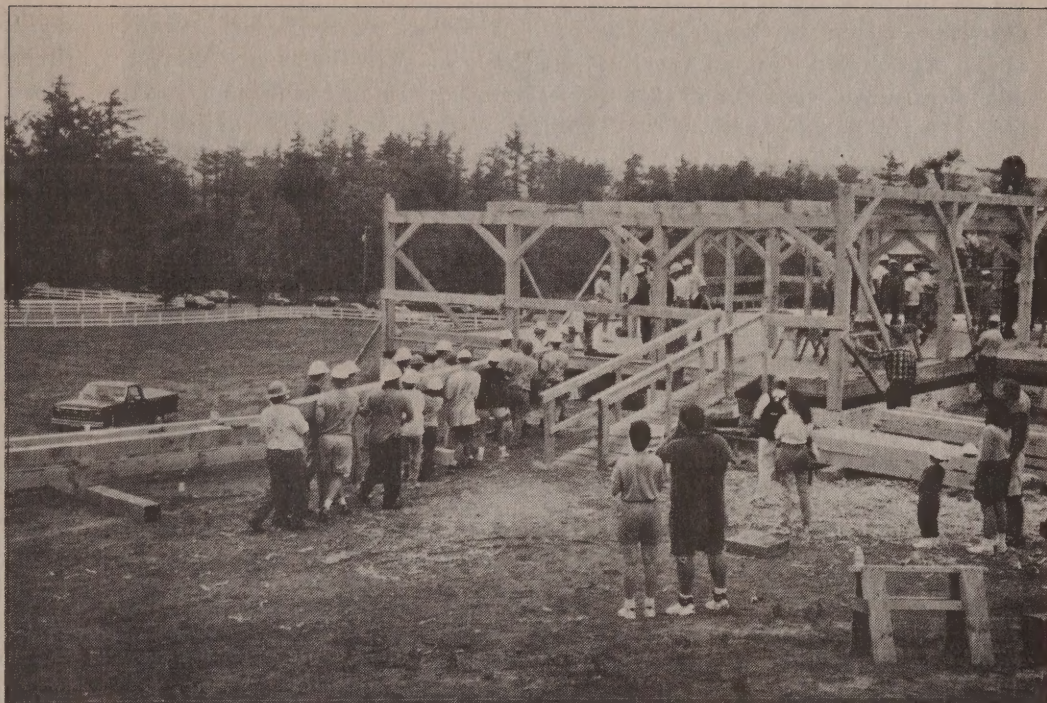
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applications for special permits or variances and the appeals of parties aggrieved by some decision of a town board or official in a land use matter. They are hometown judges whose decisions are circumscribed by caselaw, the written decisions of Massachusetts land courts and superior courts, where appeals of local rulings are adjudicated. Compared with planning, the appeals board job has a narrow focus. Rulings must uphold the bylaw, with reference to specific language and a particular situation. Decisions turn on definitions, words, and phrases, and their interpretation in relation to the house, lot, or use under consideration.

Town planning takes place over time. When the local bylaw was first approved, many houses were already located within the property line setback established under the bylaw, or were built on smaller lots than the bylaw allowed. The continued lawful existence of these properties was guaranteed, but such nonconforming structures, uses, and lots were given special significance under zoning, and their extension, alteration, or reconstruction



Glynis Oliver

Barn Raising at Gould Farm, July 29

was strictly regulated. Highly debatable cases heard by the Monterey Board of Appeals often involve situations that predate zoning. Section IV.E of our zoning bylaw addresses issues of non-conformity. It was amended significantly at the annual town meeting in 1993, following caselaw developments that shifted interpretation of a notorious section of state law known in land use circles as Section Six (of Chapter 40A, the Zoning Act, in the Massachusetts General Laws).

The notoriety of this paragraph (three sentences, 244 words), titled "Pre-existing Non-conforming Uses,

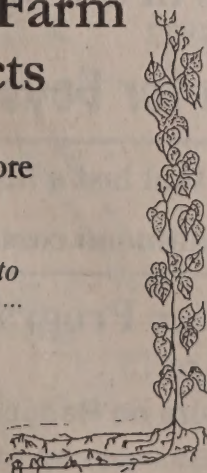
Structures and Lots," is well deserved. Judges, lawyers, lay officers of local ZBAs, and anguished citizens alike have struggled with its legalese. In sum, Section Six allows for pre-existing structures and uses that do not meet the requirements of zoning, and provides for "alteration, reconstruction, extension or structural change to a single or two-family residential structure" in pre-existing nonconforming situations, provided that the work does not "increase the nonconforming nature" of the structure or use. Further, the special permit granting authority (in Monterey, the Appeals Board), must find that "such

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change, extension or alteration shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming [structure or] use to the neighborhood.”

The word “structure” in brackets was added to the original statute following a case known as *Willard v. Board of Appeals of Orleans*, in 1987. Donald J. Schmidt, Principal Land Use Planner at the Executive Office of Communities and Development, wrote that the word was added “in order to render the statute intelligible.” In a second case, *Goldhirsch v. McNear* (1992), the Appeals Court cited *Willard*, noting that the ZBA must “identify the particular respect or respects in which the existing structure does not conform to the requirements of the present bylaw and then determine whether the proposed alteration or addition would intensify the existing nonconformities or result in additional ones.” This gave specific meaning to the general term “nonconforming nature” used in Section Six.

In *Goldhirsch*, the court was asked to review the decisions of a local ZBA and the state Land Court, in which these bodies found that because an alteration to a nonconforming structure did not increase its footprint (the perimeter of the building at the ground) it could not have increased its “nonconforming nature.” The court ruled, to the contrary, that “[t]he fact that there will be no enlargement of the foundational footprint is but one factor to be considered in making the necessary determinations or findings.” The shorthand version is that *Goldhirsch* overturned the footprint theory, and *Willard* provided for review of “nonconformities” as a means of interpreting the term “nonconforming nature” used in Section Six.

Thus caselaw has shown what is allowed and how under Section Six. The owner of a nonconforming structure or use may alter it. Alterations having the least impact on nonconformity are allowed by right; alterations which add to a nonconforming structure or use, but which are found by the permit granting authority not to add further nonconformities may be allowed by special permit; and alterations which are found to add further nonconformities may also be allowed by special permit, provided they are found not to be “substantially more detrimental” to the neighborhood. The Monterey bylaw was amended in 1992 to incorporate these refinements.

Prior to 1992, the bylaw allowed that “any nonconforming use may be enlarged or expanded if authorized by Special Permit,” provided that “such change shall result in a structure no more than 25% greater in overall height, total area, and total interior volume than the original.” Aside from wording that obscured the distinction between a nonconforming “use” and “structure,” the old bylaw was more restrictive in its 25% limitation than the state statute, with caselaw, allows. Suppose the owner of a nonconforming structure plans an addition that will increase habitable area by 50%. Say the structure is found to be nonconforming because it lies within required setback, but the proposed addition, considered separately, does meet setback. (It is added,

say, to the side of the nonconforming structure away from the property line.) It “does not increase the nonconforming nature” (as stated in Section Six), nor does it “intensify existing nonconformities or result in additional ones (as stated in *Willard*). State law and caselaw would allow the addition by special permit, but Monterey’s old bylaw would have prohibited it.

The amended Monterey bylaw now provides three successively more limiting levels of review for the “extension, alteration, or reconstruction of a structure or a change in use” under “Section IV.E, Nonconforming Structures, Uses, and Lots.” At the first level of review, the building inspector (as distinct from the special permit granting authority) may authorize a building permit by right in situations where the proposed change, as well as the existing structure, meets all setback requirements in effect at the time of application. (Perhaps the lot is smaller than minimum size, but the structure and addition still meet setback requirements. Thus the addition will not “increase the nonconforming nature,” or add new “nonconformities.”) In addition, the proposed change must not increase the height of the structure, or involve a lot with multifamily dwelling, or more than one dwelling.

The next level of review is initiated in “cases where a building permit is not authorized as a matter of right,” and

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allows by special permit changes to existing single or two-family dwellings which are themselves nonconforming, or sit on nonconforming lots, provided that "such change would not increase the nonconforming nature of the structure, lot, and/or use." To make the required determination regarding "nonconforming nature," the Zoning Board of Appeals identifies the nonconformities, and finds whether or not they would be increased or intensified by the proposed change.

Should the ZBA find that the nonconforming nature would be increased, then the third and most restrictive level of review applies, with five specific criteria: the proposed change must "not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood"; it must not increase any of certain pollutions and annoyances; it must not increase "total habitable square footage" by more than 25%; it shall be subject to "reasonable conditions, safeguards, or limitations" imposed by the ZBA; and, finally, it must "comply with all other applicable provisions" of the bylaw.

Our amended bylaw is clear and specific in defining the rights of individuals as well as the common good. There is now less room for ZBA decisions to wander off the mark in the confusion caused by inconsistency within the entire body of law, state and local, as board members consider the variety of cases that come up around town.

— Peter Murkett

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Glynis Oliver

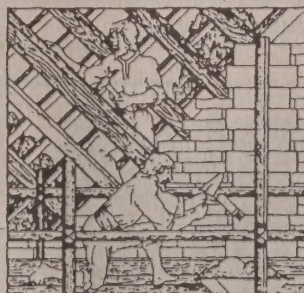
Arnie Hayes on keyboard and Allan Dean on trumpet add some jazz to Steak Roast.

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Many South County towns are working together to set up a regional program for collecting and disposing of household hazardous products. Household hazardous waste collections will be held this fall for residents of Monterey and many neighboring communities. Examples of

acceptable materials are; gasoline, paint thinner, oil paints, pesticides, and more.

Collections will be held on September 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Great Barrington and on October 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Lenox and from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Becket. Please call the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 800-238-1221 for more information and to sign-up for the event nearest you.



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Healthy Lakes: How and Why

A healthy lake begins in every home and farm, on every plot of land and road in the entire watershed. What a statement—does it mean me, my family, my house, my land?

Yes, if water from my property ultimately drains into a lake. Monterey is blessed with three bodies of water falling at least partly within its boundaries. One great pond, Lake Garfield, is entirely within the town. A lake's watershed includes all the surrounding land whose waters drain into the lake, not just the land that borders the lake.

In nature, trees and other vegetation act as buffers and filters for impurities as the waters make their way into the lake. Heavy rains, steep slopes, and bare ground overpower the natural filtration process. Phosphorus and nitrogen compounds, familiar to us as components of fertilizer, are found in nature as products of decomposition. Human activity greatly increases their concentration, especially phosphorus. Phosphorus fertilizes the lake (not a good thing), feeding algae and water plants. Oxygen in the water can help to process the phosphorus, but when the plants die and fall to the lake bottom, their decomposition uses up the oxygen in the water; a chemical reaction then starts releasing more phosphorus trapped in the bottom sediments, compounding the problem. Deep-water fish in this environment die from lack of oxygen. Algae blooms occur, especially when the water warms up. This water chemistry is going on as we read, as we sleep, twenty four hours a day. Every action in the watershed affects it for better or worse. The faster waste and

storm waters move toward the lake, the less natural filtration, and the more phosphorus ends up in the lake.

What can we do? Primarily, two things: reduce phosphorus compounds and increase natural buffers and filtration.

First, reduce phosphorus in our waste water. Use phosphate-free detergents and cleaners. Currently in Massachusetts phosphate-free detergents are available for all cleaning chores except for automatic dishwashers. So—read the labels, and use the dishwasher as little as possible.

Use lawn fertilizers very sparingly. If your property needs fertilizer as determined by a soil test, use only timed release products to avoid a sudden high nitrogen and phosphorus runoff.

Maintain a healthy septic system. The Lake Book recommends checking the sludge level yearly, and pumping when sludge reaches up halfway in the tank. The Lake Garfield Association is encouraging group septic pumping by neighbors to help reduce costs for all. Please call Dr. Jerrold Raab, D.D.S., for details. Septic systems depend on microorganisms to break down solids. Strong cleaning agents such as bleach, drain cleaners, and chemicals kill these organisms. Not using your septic system over the winter causes the microorganisms to die. They must grow up again when the system is again used, so seasonally used septic tanks are not as efficient as those used year round, and should be pumped regularly.

Secondly, plant or encourage tree and shrub growth between house, septic tank, and lake shore to increase natural filtration and slow the movement of nutrients toward the lake.

Build responsibly. Cutting down live trees on or near the lakeshore, and especially cutting on slopes greater than 15%, encourages erosion and quicker movement of nutrients into the lake. Maintain a planted buffer zone between buildings and the lake everywhere in the watershed.

These recommended actions are taken from the *Lake Book*, put out by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and written by the Congress of Lakes and Ponds. Personal copies of the *Lake Book* are available from the DEM at 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202.

Preserving our lakes and ponds is the responsibility of everyone in the watershed. When we all do our part, our lakes and ponds remain healthy. The beauty and worth of a healthy body of water is seen in healthy wildlife and fish, the otters, the great blue herons, the northern pike, and the bass. It is seen in the safe multiple uses of water by our citizens. And it is also seen in the preservation of property values and scenic beauty throughout the town.

— Patricia Edelstein
Ecology & Conservation,
Lake Garfield Association.



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September at Bidwell House

September is upon us, which means time for the Bidwell House's **Annual Tomato Tasting**, Saturday September 2 from 1:00–2:00 p.m. If any of you are gardeners, you will know that this very damp and cold summer has been less than ideal for tomatoes. While The Bidwell House has some wonderful tomato plants donated by the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy of Great Barrington, our crop is coming along quite slowly. We will, however, have heirloom tomatoes from other gardens supplied by the Conservancy, as well as samples of other heirloom vegetables from the Bidwell House garden. In addition to the tasting, there will be a tour of the museum's herb garden with discussions concerning uses of herbs in the eighteenth century for medicine, cosmetics, and food. The Tomato Tasting and garden tour are free of charge. Please consider taking a tour of the house either before or after the tasting. The house itself will be closed between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. during the event.

Although not open to the general public, we thought you would be interested to note that the Annual Bidwell Family Reunion is being held the weekend of September 9th here in the Berkshires. This is an international reunion and over 90 are signed up to attend. The Bidwell House will be closed to the public on Saturday afternoon, September 9,

for the reunion. We will be giving family members house tours and talks on the Bidwell family in Monterey, and will take them to the cemeteries on Beartown Mountain Road. The local planning committee is made up of Monterey's own Judy Hayes and Marie Leuchs, both direct descendants of Reverend Adonijah and Jemima Bidwell.

Looking ahead to October, on Sunday October 8 at 1:00 p.m. the museum will host a guided hike to **The Ancient Cairns on the Bidwell House Property**. This event will take visitors on one of our hiking trails to the stone cairns on our property. Bidwell Museum Board member George Emmons will discuss the possibility of these cairns being of Native American origin or remains from farming activity in the nineteenth century. Come prepared to hike with boots, long pants, and bug spray. Cost is \$3.00 for adults, free for members and children.

The fall is an excellent time to come to the Bidwell House for house tours, picnics on the grounds, or hikes on our many trails. The house is open for tours Tuesday – Sunday, 11:00 – 4:00. The grounds and trails are open every day during daylight hours. Admission for house tours is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, and \$3.00 for children. Members are always admitted free of charge. For further information call 528-6888.

— Lisa Simpson

Bidwell Family Association Plans Reunion

On the afternoon of September 9, the Bidwell House will host a gathering of the Bidwell family relatives and descendants, here to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Bidwell House. There will be tours of the house and a talk by Cathy Wasiuk about Mercy Partridge, the granddaughter of Adonijah Bidwell, who, with her husband, was one of the first missionaries to go to the Hawaiian Islands.

There will be Bidwells from all over, as the annual reunions are held in different parts of the country each year. This year the reunion itself is at Eastover. Besides the trip to the Bidwell House, there will be a tour of Chesterwood, the Rockwell Museum, and the Fred Leuchs Stained Glass Studio in Stockbridge.

For further information please contact Judith B. Hayes, Chairperson, at (413) 528-1874.

— Judith B. Hayes

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Rep Rap

The 1999-2000 legislative session that ended on July 31 resulted in many triumphs for the people of Berkshire County. The Legislature overrode the Governor's vetoes on education funding, designed a program to help seniors meet the increasing costs of prescription drugs, and finally passed the Buffer Zone bill to protect people using services offered at reproductive clinics. These successes came through hard-won battles, but none so great or more rewarding than the money I was able to secure for the Berkshire South Regional Community Center.

In 1998 a community needs study cited the lack of recreational facilities as the number one problem in southern Berkshire County. With that in mind local volunteers got together to put a plan in motion to develop a community center for the 45,000 year-round residents of southern Berkshire County. The Berkshire South Regional Community Center formed a board and hired a staff to do outreach within the seventeen south county towns to determine what services people wanted at a community center. Through this effort it was decided that the community center would offer leisure, cultural, and community based activities, as well as childcare, after-school and senior day programs, and community meeting spaces. Now that the programmatic part of the center was relatively secure, funding the project became the next step.

In February I met with the board and staff of the center to discuss what role the state could play in helping this project get off the ground. At this point the center had raised almost \$3 million to support the construction of the facility and were looking to the state for some sort of matching funds. I was impressed by the level of community support for the project and the community-focused approach that the board had utilized in promoting the center. Not only are the activities directed by the needs of the community but also the architects, design teams, and building firms are local professionals. I was also impressed by the high level of private



Glynis Oliver

Grace and Tim Burke at the Firemen's Steak Roast

fund-raising conducted within this small rural area. Local businesses and individuals made donations to support the center. They were putting their money where their mouths were, and I was going to be sure to help them form a partnership with the state to make the project a reality.

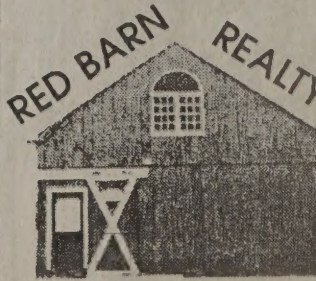
Later in February the Governor released his deficiency budget, which included a \$1 million appropriation for construction of the Berkshire South Regional Community Center. Now my job was to make sure that the appropriation stayed intact and was approved by the Legislature. As the clock ran down on the session, I worked overtime to show legislative leaders that this project was indeed an investment worth making in Berkshire County. At the end we could claim victory, as the funding was approved by the

Legislature on the last day of the session. The state's infusion of funds has brought the community center to its first finish line. The \$1 million appropriation will enable construction to begin within the next nine months.

The partnerships that the state forms with communities and community-based projects helps to improve the quality of life and fulfill documented needs for many people all over the Commonwealth. It is the cooperative commitment of state and local leaders, private corporations, and volunteers that has helped to carry the mission of the community to this point.

As always, please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns at my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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10

Senator Says

Community Planning and Housing

In January 2000, Governor Cellucci issued Executive Order 418 (EO418), which is intended to focus city and town activity on two areas: creating community plans and increasing the supply of housing in the Commonwealth. An opening paragraph of EO418 states the purpose of the Governor's directive as follows: "... [W]e need to encourage our cities and towns to create 'community development plans' that identify locations for new housing opportunities while still preserving the unique character of their communities, and to provide incentives to cities and towns to expand the supply of new housing."

Planning our communities and producing affordable housing are worthy goals, and all cities and towns benefit from attention to both matters. Unfortunately, EO418 goes beyond the promotion of community planning and affordable housing. The Governor's order comes with a new, complicated certification process that the state will use when considering applications for state funds. Of greatest concern is that EO418 also limits the ability of communities to address economic development, public health, tourism, parks, and other important local priorities until they have annually submitted to a state review of their "housing certification" status.

Under rules attached to EO418, each community hoping to qualify for state grant funds for projects such as roads,

community development, parks, clean water, or drinking water systems must achieve housing certification each year. In each year, the community can obtain certification by demonstrating "an increase in housing units that are affordable to individuals and families across a broad range of incomes." The number and type of units created will vary from community to community, and should reflect the housing needs outlined in the local planning documents.

In the first three years of the Governor's new program (beginning June 15, 2000), as an alternative to creating new housing units, a community may obtain housing certification by completing a number of activities that create a positive atmosphere for housing development. Among the twenty-three suggested activities, communities can hold a forum on housing needs, identify land or provide public buildings suitable for the development of affordable housing, form a local or regional housing partnership, or adopt zoning provisions to encourage housing creation.

In the past, small towns of western Massachusetts have been left out when funding was tied to a complex process of documentation because we are less likely to have personnel available to fill out the paperwork, coordinate local officials, or conduct meetings necessary to provide information to the state agencies.

I am also concerned that the program implementing EO418 may not take into account the very real housing needs of this area, which differ from the housing problems in the eastern

part of the Commonwealth. EO418 emphasizes creation of a range of new housing units, which may make sense for areas where housing costs are very high and vacancy rates are low. Our housing problems in western Massachusetts often stem from:

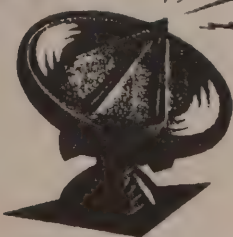
- hardship for some local families in paying even a moderate monthly rent; rural isolation;
- a shortage of support services such as transit and child care;
- the high cost of renovating buildings with asbestos or lead paint problems;
- aging housing stock;
- inadequate maintenance funds for existing public housing.

I encourage local officials and interested residents to complete a community development plan for their city or town. We must also encourage our state agencies to help us address our unique housing needs and not try to make us fit the formula they have devised for the eastern part of the state. If the Governor's emphasis on housing creation does not serve the needs of western Massachusetts, we should provide input to the state agencies as soon as possible to shape this program in ways that will help us address local housing problems.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Xantippe

*Xantippe had cramps—
and she had dropped her favorite pot
the one with seven centaurs
chasing a single nymph!
and she was in a snit
because she was in a snit!*

*this type of thing
led to storms and tongue-lashings
so Socrates
adroitly went out the back
as she was at the front door
rejecting a sponge salesman
who had somehow survived
with a club foot.*

— A. O. Howell

Violet

*When Violet left
she took with her
the broken color
between day and night,
the bruise
flowering
on the flesh
of heaven.*

— Peter Shepley

The Blind Girl's Song

*Speak to me of shadows
that I may learn of light
and sing to me of sadness
that I may know delight*

*Tell me of the willows
that bend beside the stream
whisper of the reedy shore
that I may lie and dream*

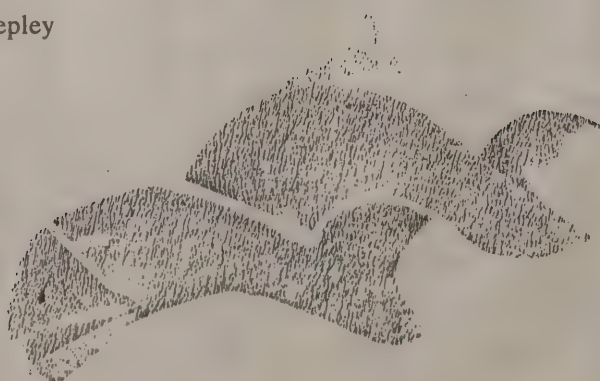
*Show me what I do not know
and kiss my opening eyes
I lie beside the water
and know love never dies*

*Lead me by the river
down beside the sea
speak to me of lovers
but never you and me*

*Take away the stone
that lies upon my heart
God knows that in the morning
you and I will part*

*I do know now of shadows
that led me to delight—
o love, and must you leave me
who lit my inner light!*

— A. O. Howell



Barn Raising

Early Saturday morning
dozens of the skilled
volunteers from across the land
have begun to chisel and hew,
preparation for the framing
they've come to do.
I place my folding chair for a view.
Now the sixty or so locals arrive
who will carry the already notched beams.
There is Jim Jensen,
older than he seems,
(he must be seventy-five),
the waitress with a bead in her tongue,
muscular Mary Sweeney
and the twins, the Thatcher pair.
The smell of freshly sawed wood
pervades the misty air.
Clouds threaten and ease, in shifty fashion.
A large tent holds coffee, hot dogs
and the demonstration of a machine, fifty
years old, that spits out wooden pegs
and tool handles from logs.

Expectation hovers over the growing throng—
farmers, villagers and timbermen,
curious and anxious to see
the timber crafts of a past century.
Condolences for tornado damage to farm trees
were still forthcoming
when they developed a plan
to use the heartwood for beams
to build a large barn, to train teenagers
in food processing,—jobs,
a vocation of their dreams.

A sculptor from Rhode Island state
works on a plaque of slate
to be hung in the barn.
A guitarist strums a few chords that relate
as we watch men high above, balancing,

grabbing rolling beams,
sliding them toward reaching hands,
from many lands,
lifting, pounding pegs with mallets
into large beams, men with missing fingers
pounding nails on the flooring,
to a kind of rhythmic beat.
“The way you hold a hammer
makes all the difference” they repeat.

Stability, leverage.
There is no goofing off, no clamor,
no quibbling here.
The top of the barn with its braces
begins to look like a honeycomb.
Lucky the tornado felled enough
trees for long timbers in large spaces!
Applause from the crowd at the sight
as one of the heavy timbers
is grabbed, hoisted, and is now in place.
It fits perfectly. No sag,
lying like a shaft of light.
One side went up the way you'd raise a flag.
Careful joinery. Scoring-axes sharpened,
hewing, measuring, chalking,
and chopping off clean.

The crowd cheers as a small fir tree appears,
is nailed to the rafters' very top
by the builders,
an ancient custom of guilders
in gratitude to the wood.
The assemblage roars approval nonstop
for fine old-fashioned craftsmanship.
Ten hours of unrelenting, dedicated community
exertion. Other groups will add roof and siding.
Mountain laurel instead of laurel wreaths, providing
—a crown for the town, Gould Farm, the woodsmen
and the beams of wood, beams of light, beams of hope.

— Nancy Adams

Everyday Miracles The Renewal of Perception

In the midst of a babbling summer afternoon conversation, which ranged over bugs, housepaint, Superman, and school gangs, my five-year-old son Rody recently announced, "You know, Daddy, people don't just speak with their mouths. They speak with their whole bodies."

He wouldn't elaborate: the stream of insight flowed on unstoppably, in eddies and waterfalls that ham-handed Reason is powerless to chain or direct. I want to pause a bit over that churned-up pearl, however.

They speak with their whole bodies.

We all know this. The gestures that intentionally accompany speech, the body language that unintentionally accompanies speech—it is all speaking. Archaic peoples know it more feelingly. The Kogi of Colombia, for example, judge visitors not so much by what they say as by the grace with which they stand and sit, lift a yam to their mouths, or whittle a stick.

In a larger sense, what we do with our lives as a whole is speech. The Hungarian sage Georg K hlew nd likes to say that a human being *is* a word. Like words, we each comprise both a visible or audible phenomenon and also its source—an invisible, inaudible meaning. And we sound this "word" with our whole bodies, with our whole lives, with the voice of our every relationship.

As the mouth is to the body, so are we to Nature. Humans present only an aspect of the Earth's speech. We are its loudspeaker. There is no part of the Earth and the events on it that would not carry significance, had we the ears to hear. The greatest scientists, like Barbara Ann McClintock, have been willing to approach elements of the natural world in conversation rather than confrontation, and so have made astonishing discoveries. She traveled down the barrel of her ocular microscope, she said, to swim around in the cytoplasm of the maize cells she studied. What she called a "feeling for the organism" led her to savor meanings in

its faintest internal movements—meanings that eventually won her a Nobel Prize in biology. Mystics of all ages and cultures have also had this understanding, that the Earth is not a pile of *things* but a feast of meanings.

As with all meanings, when the Earth becomes our understanding it also ceases to appear outside us. It is within us.

The day we moved from Brooklyn to Mill River a year ago this July, we were waiting for the moving truck to come and looking out at the concrete front "lawn" and sidewalk. The sunlight poured down on it, brilliantly lighting up our bedraggled, dying hydrangea, the gum wrappers and beer bottle caps discarded by neighbors, the casual filth of the Brooklyn street itself. Rody, then just four years old, turned from this scene to look at me and declare, "It is all God. Everything you walk on is God. The stairs are God."

What is this kind of glance, this kind of looking, that can perceive the divine significance even in the most ordinary or unsavory scenery? What kind of glance can perceive the silent speech of the whole body, of the Earth?

Our eventual ecological salvation, as I both hope and fear, will arrive only when we all can look at the world so openly, so lovingly—with an adult increase in discrimination, perhaps, but

with no diminution in awe. We will hear the speech of the Earth, that is, when we can change the quality of our perception itself, so that the glance of the eyes becomes an act of hearing. Shakespeare knew this in the context of human relationships, and ended one of his sonnets with a flash that illuminates many depths: "To hear with eyes belongs to love's fine wit." Our communal actions (how we build factories, how we plan cities, how we grow food) could then become loving speech in response to what we have heard.

For most of us, it is only a pretty abstraction to talk this way, except at rare moments of uplift. Anything more meaty and more lasting would require us to heed William Blake's suggestion that "if the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would be seen as it is, infinite." We would need to engage in a regular practice of "cleansing": a practice of meditation.

This need not mean that we sit cross-legged or focus on a mantra or on our breathing. It does mean an intensification in our powers of alertness, of open-mindedness, in the very act of sight, hearing, smell, touch and all the powers of consciousness. "I don't know much about prayer," writes the poet Mary Oliver, "but I know how to pay attention."



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Meditation or prayer worthy of the name would mean the intensification of our capacity to pay attention. *That* cleanses the doors of perception. A friend reports that, when he lived with the Kogi for several months in the Sierra Madre of Colombia, he found that he (like them) could *feel* the wild yams growing invisibly, and plunged his hand under the earth to find them, *without searching*, when he was hungry. What the Kogi have by culture and grace, we must acquire in a different way, through practice.

Here in the Berkshires, we are surrounded by intensities of the Earth's présence that are silent to us unless we practice our alertness. For what is given, in childhood, must be earned by adults. Last fall, I lingered on the porch outside my psychotherapy office, marveling at the outrageous colors of two huge maples. A colleague in a neighboring office, rushing from the building, asked me what I was doing.

"Looking at the maples," I said.

"What maples?" she asked, searching for her car keys, "I'm late!" And she sped to her car.

Well, I've often been in her place, just too busy to slow down to the Earth's pace. The practice of perceptual meditation does not guarantee a stress-free life. It does offer the possibility of renewed



Glynis Oliver

awe, and it does lead to the conviction—sometimes of heart-stopping intensity—that we live in a world of meanings rather than things.

— Michael Lipson

Michael Lipson, PhD, is a clinical psychologist in independent practice in Great Barrington and New York City. For many years the Chief Psychologist in pediatric AIDS at Harlem Hospital, as a Soros Faculty Scholar he developed a meditative training program for health professionals who work with the dying. On September 9 and 10, Michael will be co-leading a workshop in meditation and movement with Tai Chi master Djie Han Thung. For information, call Han at (413) 274-9927 or Michael at (413) 229-7772.

Dinah's Choice

Edward and the Pirates
by David McPhail

Younger people who like adventurous stories will enjoy this book. The pictures in the book are actual paintings. The illustrator is also the author David McPhail.

This book is about a boy named Edward. Edward loves to read. His favorite books are adventure books. One night he falls asleep while reading his book *Lost Pirate Treasure*. He awakes in the middle of the night and finds his bed surrounded by pirates.

Who will save Edward from the pirates?! To find out, read this book from the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

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Gardening Angels

This is only September, but clearly we have turned the seasonal corner. Grass-mowing schedules have eased up, tomato-vine growth rates have slowed, and here in Monterey we know we could get a frost any time. Gardeners listen carefully to the forecast this time of year, ready to rush out to cover or bring in tender tropical harvests. Geese are mobilizing, the first maple leaves turned a couple of weeks ago, and many local residents are fattening up for the slow, cold time.

This time of year we get skunks visiting our garden. We don't see them because they are so nocturnal, but in the morning we find the nose-divots they have left in their scrounging for grubs. By this time my fluffy mulch of spring-time has flattened down to a fairly smooth layer. It is easy to see disturbances in it and to recognize the characteristic little round nosings of Seganku, the skunk.

Skunks are members of the weasel tribe, which we think of as being zippy, if not hyperactive. But skunks are different in that they have perfected a well-known weapon, which lets them lead a relaxed life. They have the slow confidence of the well-armed—they are

even "flat-footed," a characteristic shared with bears and people. We are all plantigrades, that is, we leave a hind-foot track that shows the heel, whereas the other mammals are nervous digitigrades, staying up on their toes: flight is their ultimate defense.



Our word "skunk" comes from the Abenaki "Seganku."

All the weasels have musk glands under the tail. Ernest Thompson Seton said that in the skunk these had reached their "glorious perfection," which is a "mixture of perfume musk, essence of garlic, burning sulfur, and sewer gas, intensified 1,000 times" (*Life Histories*

of Northern Animals). The chemical recipe is crotyl mercaptan, isopentyl mercaptan, and methyl crotyl disulfide in a ratio of 4:4:3, as reported to the 1974 meeting of the American Chemical Society by a team of chemists from the University of New Hampshire at Durham.

Any way you describe it, skunk spray is powerful. It sits ready to fire, as a liquid, and is atomized when it hits the air. A creature on the ground within ten feet of a desperate skunk is likely to be hit dead in the eye, unless it heeds the many warning signals and shows some prudent respect.

Skunks do not use their weapon lightly. They can squirt only five or six times before they have to spend several hours recharging. They never squirt other skunks and are careful not to get the spray on their own fur. I have a skunk hide that I take to show school children when I visit classrooms. When they see the familiar black and white fur, the kids invariably respond with much hooting

and holding of the nose: "Ugh! Stinky!" But when challenged to close their eyes and tell me whether it is the skunk hide or the rabbit hide being held inches from their noses, they can never tell.

For the most part, skunks have the even temper of the powerfully armed.



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Like rattlesnakes, they are reluctant to use their weapon and give a series of unmistakable warnings before pushing the button. A skunk alarmed will lower its head and growl at its enemy. If further provoked, it stamps its feet angrily and raises its tail. At last, never taking its eyes from its target, it turns its hindquarters around and fires two streams of oily yellow musk straight ahead to the eyeballs with legendary accuracy up to eight or ten feet. Any creature hit at this range, with the exception of great horned owls, which for some unknown reason are immune to the effects of skunk spray, will react immediately with nausea, temporary blindness, and great speed. (Some great horned owls are such regular skunk hunters that their feathers and nests always smell like skunk.) The musk may be carried on the wind and detected as much as a mile and a half away.

Skunks spend the winter in underground dens. They fatten up in the fall, nosing in my garden mulch for grubs, beetles, crickets, and ants. They also like eggs, crayfish, frogs, and mice, and have even been known to eat poisonous snakes. Like other weasels, they pose a serious

threat to the loosely constructed henhouse. Eggs form a large part of their diet, and we have had a visiting skunk nose under the hen to take an egg without harming the bird. Sometimes, though, once inside the coop, a skunk can't resist a chicken or two. There are even accounts of skunks running amok on a weasel-style killing spree and doing in more chickens than they could possibly eat. (These stories are more typical of the western spotted skunk than of our eastern striped skunk.)

I get a lot of night visitors to my garden, mostly unseen by me. In the morning I see where the deer have nibbled the broccoli and beans and left their deep tracks in the beds. When the corn is ripe and my electric corn fence is on the fritz, raccoons make terrible inroads on my storage crop. I am philosophical—I share the planet. But I also get that fence hotted up.

When I find the skunk nose divots, I feel that at least one creature on the night crew is on my side and hope she steers clear of my raccoon fence. Seton wrote, "Every skunk is the guardian angel of a garden acre." She is up there with folded wings, maybe with her half-grown kits, teaching them her angel ways: move slowly, stay cool, and get as many cutworms as possible out of this bean bed.

— Bonner J. McAllester



Sophie's Story

The Wanderer
by Sharon Creech

Everyone will enjoy this book, especially, Sharon Creech fans. Unlike Creech's other books (*Walk Two Moons*, *Bloomability*, *Absolutely Normal*, *Chaos*, *Chasing Redbird*, *Pleasing the Ghost*) *The Wanderer* is written in journal/diary form.

This book is about a thirteen-year-old girl named Sophie. Sophie was orphaned as a baby. When Sophie's adoptive uncles and cousins take her on a boat trip from Connecticut to England to see Bompie, Sophie's adoptive grandfather, they decide that everybody has to teach something. Sophie decides to teach the family about Bompie through the stories that he told her about himself.

To find out Sophie's story, the adventures they have, and what Sophie realized at the end of the journey, check this book out at the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

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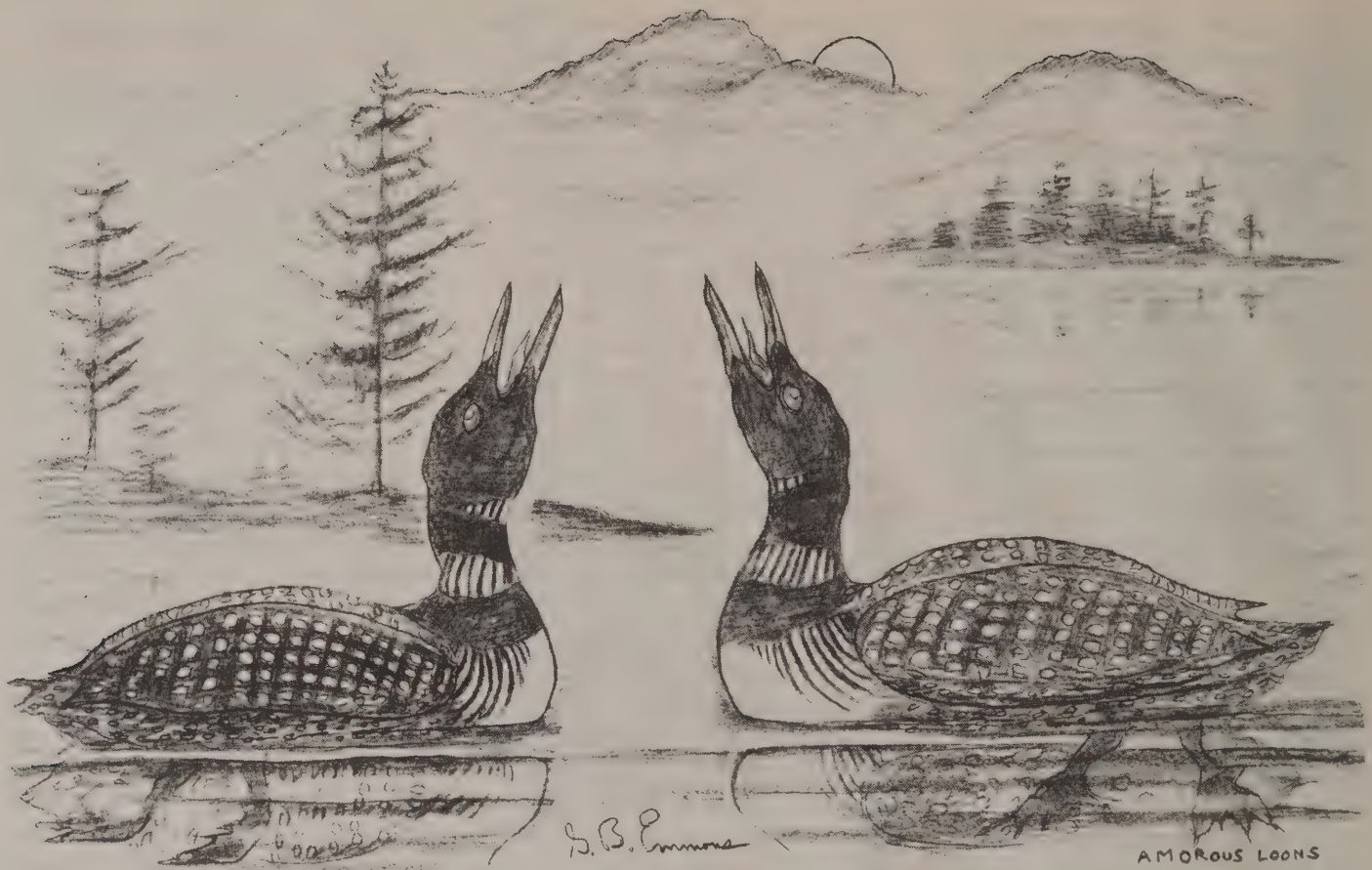
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Spirit of the Waters

William Safire in his weekly column "On Language" that appears in the Sunday Magazine section of *The New York Times* could easily have a verbal field day in writing about the origin and meaning of the word *loon*. For most of us, a loon is a black head and white spotted body, separated by a curious black-and-white-striped necklace.

However, Safire might mention a separate meaning of the word listed in *Webster's New International Dictionary*: a person who is a lout, or a rascal. To give an example of archaic usage by contrast, a lord is at the top of a social structure, and an individual who is a loon is of low stature, at the bottom of a human pecking order. Yet an extension of the word into *loonery* refers not to an insane asylum, as we might expect, but to a mating place for loons, as shown in my drawing of two loons in a characteristic greeting pose, extending their heads and bills upright (as do sea gulls and cormorants), while talking to each other.

In more scientific circles, the common loon is classified as *Gavia immer*, a species not as common in Monterey as we might like, perhaps because in summer our lakes are seen by our own species as amusement parks for thrills and spills. Nevertheless, the common loon is known as "great northern diver," undoubtedly an accurate nomenclature of its behavior. I find this bird quite remarkable, and in my own descriptive vernacular would gladly knight it with a noble and royal title such as "Lord of the Rings of Wilderness Waters."

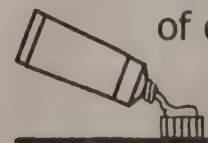
Still, a loon can take on the role of a court jester, performing entertaining feats of aquatic acrobats. For example, it can slowly squeeze air pockets out of its feathers, to gradually plane down below the surface of the water, much like a submerging submarine, until just its head is visible, cruising along like a periscope. Then in the twinkling of an eye, it can do a forward somersault to dive down to incredible depths among denizens of the deep (sadly, in Lake Ontario, sometimes to be caught in fishermen's nets a hundred feet down). Adept at using their

large web feet like the flippers of a scuba diver, they can also flap their wings to "fly" under water, and can change direction instantaneously. To avoid unwanted observation, they stay down long enough to become out of mind because out of sight, only to surface when and where least expected.

If they seem to show an almost comic expression of satisfaction upon coming to the surface after such a clever

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performance, it may be because they have successfully survived as one of the oldest living creatures on earth. As they compose their feathers, there is something magical about the reflections of their bright spots that seem to mimic the tiny mirrors in every wave. They have an aura of sartorial splendor as they glide gracefully across the surface under a bright sun, or in the beams of a full moon. Loons have several calls, each with a special meaning. One, called a tremor, is shrill and fluted, and is used to locate other loons in the distance. Only a loon can distinguish another loon's answer from an echo of its own voice.

My most memorable experience with another loon call came recently at the Appalachian Mountain Club summer camp on Lake Winnepesaukee (an Indian word meaning "place of laughing waters"). During a dark and restless night, having just received a message that my sister, who was not well, had suffered a heart attack, I feared I might never see her again, and that she would never finish writing her book about the Cherokee Trail of Tears. In the turmoil of my worst fears, from just outside our little cabin at the water's edge came the startling wail of a loon. Recalling the book *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* (written by a Native American), I at first thought this was not a good omen, but then remembered that the wail of a loon means rain is coming. Sure enough, minutes later, drops began to splatter on the roof just over my head, followed by a downpour, then a torrent—and I slept. The next day my sister sur-

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for September

*Now that milfoil is on the run
Loosestrife problems have begun.
Purple flowers pretty to see
Will choke our lake if lazy we be.
Root them out one by one
Very soon they will all be done.*

vived a triple bypass operation, and continues to improve and feel better.

The end of summer always has some sense of nostalgia, especially for those who enjoy the beach at Lake Garfield, such as our children and grandchildren (mine are beginning to swim like fish, or maybe like loons). As the sunlit sands around the lake's edge lose their lustre a little earlier every day, the chances of seeing a loon get slightly better. Unlike most migratory fowl moving north and south, loons often move east and west. With their feet so far back in their bodies, like the hind legs of a dinosaur, they cannot walk or stand up on land and are laborious flyers, requiring long expanses of open water to take off; therefore they must leave before ice forms. They may be seen on their way to the open waters of the Housatonic and later down to the sea, where they spend the winter. Then the spirit of the waters around Lake Garfield will be more than noticeably absent.

*Waves talking to the shore
Their voices heard no more.*

— George Emmons

An Afternoon of Klezmer in Sandisfield

On Sunday, September 10, at 2 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, Seth Rogovoy, author and music critic, will give a talk entitled "Rockin' the Shtetl: The Essential Klezmer." The talk will be followed by a performance of the Pittsfield-based Klezmer band Two Cents Plain. Tickets are \$12.50. Call (413) 258-4904 for reservations and information.

Seth Rogovoy, *Berkshire Eagle* music critic and author of *The Essential Klezmer: a Music Lover's Guide to Jewish Roots and Soul Music*, will recount Klezmer's journey from Old World shtetls to New World night clubs. Along the way, the audience will meet legendary characters, hear snippets of the greats, and discover surprising trivia. The author will leave time for questions and answers and be on hand to sign copies of his book.

Two Cents Plain Klezmer Band has been entertaining audiences for over fifteen years. Their repertoire ranges from traditional Eastern European dance music (Frailachs, mazurkas, etc.) to Yiddish folk songs and theater melodies, to classic Israeli songs and dances. The band features Miriam Shapiro on violin, Charles Tokarz on woodwinds, Bob Salzman on baritone horn, Joe Bradford on drums, Alan Gold on keyboard, and Amy Miller on vocals.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield.

Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055

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MaryKate Jordan

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel Kathy Bracken's Legacy: One

Kathy Bracken is part of the Lake Buel community, and was involved in creating the appliqued flower quilt that the Monterey Piecemakers stitched to raise money for the Meetinghouse several years ago. Since then, taking on a job in the Pittsfield school system has kept her stitchery time tuned to a lower key, but she's still surrounded by beautiful handwork.

Not only her own needlework, but well-stitched legacies from both sides of her family are at home in her house. The geneological specifics sound more

complicated than they actually are. Think of it as a puzzle to solve.

Kathy's Great-Grandmother Clark was maternal grandmother to Kathy's mother, Marjorie Goodrich Tuttle. Mrs. Clark pieced a patchwork doll quilt for her granddaughter Marjorie. Made entirely of half-square triangles, the quilt is primarily a dance of pinks, creams, blues, and browns. It even has a triple border of patches on the reverse side of the quilt, so that the top edge can be folded down and still keep its pattern intact.

Eventually, Marjorie had a granddaughter of her own, Kathy's daughter, Hannah, and Marjorie gave Hannah the doll quilt. Since it was made by Hannah's great-great-grandmother, the

doll quilt has now touched five generations of women.

Mrs. Clark also made Marjorie two other quilts which Kathy has at home. One would fit a baby's cradle, the other is trundle-bed size. The trundle-bed quilt shows twelve patches of muslin embroidered with figures outlined in pale pink embroidery floss. The squares are latticed with strips of pink-checked gingham. The squares are quilted in a pattern of overlapping circles, with quilted 'x's in the latticework.

Marjorie's paternal grandmother, who was Kathy's Great-Grandmother Goodrich, hooked a flower basket pattern from strips of wool, perfect for a chair seat or pillow top. She may have designed it herself, or worked from a



MaryKate Jordan

commercial pattern. The photograph shows the back of the work, since the original vegetable dyes have faded considerably over the years.

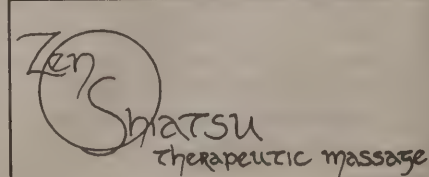
Next month: more of Kathy's legacy.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Stone Carver

To the Editor:

I am writing to share my experiences and love for Gould Farm. September of 1999 was my first visit to Gould Farm. I was welcomed into the home of Donna and Wayne Burkhart, who live and work at the farm. I was in your area because I was to be an artist in residence at Santarella in Tyringham. Being artist in residence means showing your artwork and actually performing your craft in the gallery space.

It is customary amongst Friends, (Quakers) to write a letter seeking hospitality when visiting an area. I wrote to the South Berkshire Friends Meeting asking for a place to stay while at Santarella. Wayne and Donna Burkhart answered my letter with an invitation to stay in their home. I was told they lived at Gould Farm and that it was a community where people of all ages, dealing with mental illness, come to live and heal by working together using their hands and hearts. I fell in love with Gould Farm and the Burkhart family.

My art is stone carving. More specifically, letter carving inscriptions in stone. While at Santarella last year, I was handcarving a quote from St. Francis into a slate meditation bench. It read, "Where there is peace and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor doubt."

As I got to know Donna and Wayne better, they shared with me that they have a son Christopher who died three years ago. My work moved them, and they have commissioned me to create his memorial stone. Listening to their story was difficult but necessary so I would understand who Christopher was and what he loved.

This work that I do and do with love is my true calling. I have come to see it as a ministry.

When I heard about the barn raising at Gould Farm I wanted to be part of it. My husband and three children came for the awesome day to raise the posts and beams. The children helped by nailing in roof rafters, my husband lifted walls, and I brought a slate tablet with an inscription to be carved that read, "By serving each other we become truly free." My mallet and chisel worked most of the day on site and will continue here in my studio until it is complete. This tablet will hang in the barn to show my gratitude to the Burkharths and the farm.

Again I have been invited to be an artist in residence at Santarella, September 1st through the 4th. I will stay with the Burkharths, share meals with the guests and staff at the farm, and be transformed by seeing the community serve each other. The Gould Farm tablet will be with me at Santarella as I continue to carve it. I am grateful to have found my true calling and to share it with your community.

— Karin Sprague

Remembering Charlotte Rood

Charlotte E. Rood, 67, of Pixley Hill Road died August 19 at home.

Born in Simsbury, Connecticut, on Feb. 12, 1933, daughter of Burton and Almira Louison Holcomb, she attended Sheffield schools. She lived in Southfield before moving to Monterey in 1972.

Mrs. Rood was employed by the former Turner & Cook manufacturing company in Southfield. She was a former member of Clayton Bible Church. A well-known crafter, she crocheted more than one hundred teddy bears for the Toys for Tots program.

Her husband, Martin A. Rood, whom she married Feb. 17, 1951, died in 1998.

She leaves a son, Harold F. Rood of Monterey; a daughter, Linda L. Jones of Monterey; a foster daughter, Jean V. Green of Ashley Falls; five brothers, Edmund and Edwin Holcomb, both of Great Barrington, Frank Holcomb of Florida, Donald Holcomb of Housatonic, and Ernest Louison of Brooklyn, N.Y.; three sisters, Eddie Mae Gerard of Housatonic, Eleanor VanDeusen of Sheffield, and Susan Babbs of Pittsfield; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandson.

The funeral was held on August 24 at the Hickey-Roy Funeral Home, with the Rev. Frederick Herbaria officiating. Burial was in Ashley Falls Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy in her memory may be made to the Monterey First Responders or the Monterey Police Department, both in care of Hickey-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Gt. Barrington.

Hear ye, hear ye!

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Remembering William Mielke

William E. Mielke, Sr., 79, formerly of Blue Hill Road, died Aug. 10 in Beverly Hills, Florida. He had lived in Monterey from 1953 to 1990.

Born in South Haven, Michigan, on March 10, 1921, son of Fred and Bertha Winkle Mielke, he attended South Haven and Paw Paw, Michigan schools. He was a 1947 graduate of Harvard College, received a master's degree from Boston University, and completed further education at Columbia University. He was also an undergraduate at Franklin & Marshall College, where he completed naval studies and earned letters in sports.

He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II from 1940 until 1946 and was stationed on the *USS Charleston* in the North Pacific.

Mr. Mielke moved to Monterey in 1953 and was employed by the Great Barrington school system and later the Southern Berkshire Regional School District as a psychologist and school administrator. He then became a school administrator for the Chicopee school system for many years. He was also a consultant on establishing many regional schools in Massachusetts and on the testing of schoolchildren of all ages, especially those with special needs.

He served as moderator for the Town of Monterey for 20 years. His interests included education and the environment, and he enjoyed playing golf.

He leaves his wife of 52 years, Catherine Shields Mielke; three sons, William E. (Mike) Mielke, Jr., Frederick C. (Rick) Mielke, and Charles R. Mielke, all of Monterey; three daughters, Patricia K. Mielke and Paula J. Mielke, both of Monterey, and Kathy-Lynne Mielke Shaw of Gloucester; two sisters, Eleanor Stine and Lorene Fiebig, both of Portage, Michigan; 11 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Saturday, Aug. 19, at St. Peter's Church, Great Barrington, with burial in Corashire Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Monterey Library, the Mount Everett High School Scholarship Fund or the American Cancer Society.

Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Dinah Mielke** on the 2nd, **Gabriele Haapanen** on the 3rd, **Micole Raab** and **Kate Vallianos** on the 4th, **Marya Makuc**—her first!—on the 9th, **Talia Freundlich** on the 10th, **Christopher Monk** on the 11th, **Parker Gauthier** and **MaryKate Jordon** on the 12th, **Jeff Gauthier** on the 13th, **Christina Vallianos** on the 23rd, **Ellen Coburn** on the 24th, **Stephanie Grotz** on the 26th, **Marcus Sheridan** on the 27th, **Rod Palmer** and **Ray Tryon** on the 28th, **Scott Sheridan** and **Susan Sheridan** on the 29th.

Happy Anniversary to **Laury and Jerry Epstein** on the 3rd, **Ann and John Higgins** on the 7th, **Mary and Mark Makuc** on the 11th, **Barbara and Bob Gauthier** on the 17th.

There are gaps in the earlier issues of the *Monterey News*. For the 70's we'll need to look to 1972: The August 28 issue of *Newsweek* magazine gave a moment of national prominence to Monterey over the Route 23 issue.... The emphasis was primarily on the controversy that has been created in the town over the issue of either relocating or widening and maintaining the present route. A number of residents who commented on the article expressed regret that it failed to

recognize the many ways in which the people of the town work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation.

1980: The Monterey Fire Department, comprising twenty firefighters, has formed a non-profit organization, the Monterey Fire Company, Ltd. The company will provide a legal structure through which funds may be processed and by which ongoing projects and plans may be facilitated. The group's latest project is a big one. Approximately two and a half acres of land have been purchased in the business district of Monterey on which there is a small house. The house will be moved to one side of the property and sold. The remainder of the land will become the site of a new company-owned fire house.

1990: Bob and Barbara Gauthier are still feeling a bit overwhelmed after their children, Pam, Jim, David and Jeff surprised them with a wonderful garden party right in their own backyard (now that takes some doing!), in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

Like reading about your neighbors? They like reading about you too. Send your contributions to the Personal Notes column to me at POB 211 or call 528-1871. Thank you.

— Deborah Mielke

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Calendar

Saturday, September 2:

Heirloom Tomato Tasting and Herb Garden Tour, 1:00–2:00 p.m., Bidwell House. Free. See p. 9.

Last performance of *Into the Landscape*, part three from the Threads and Thresholds Theatrical History Series, Bidwell House. 6:30 p.m., festivities begin; 7:00 p.m., performance begins. \$12.00 for adults, free for children ages 8–18. Reservations requested.

Jazz Concert, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. Music by Allan Dean, flugelhorn; Richard Downs, bass; Randy Kaye, drums; John Sauer, piano. Tickets \$15 at door; call in advance for guaranteed seating: (413) 229-3126.

Monday, September 4: Labor Day, Town Offices closed. Transfer station open 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 9:

National Marionette Theatre puppeteers perform *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. Puppetry demonstration follows performance. Great family event. Free, but tickets *must* be reserved in advance. (413) 229-3126.

Bidwell House Museum closed after 1:00 p.m. for Bidwell Family Reunion.

Sunday, September 10: "Rockin' the Shtetl: The Essential Klezmer," 2:00 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center,

Hammertown Road off Rt. 57, Sandisfield. Talk by music critic Seth Rogovoy, followed by performance by Pittsfield-based Klezmer band Two Cents Plain. \$12.50. Call (413) 258-4904 for reservations and information.

Wednesday, September 13: Full Moon

Saturday, September 16: Chamber and Vocal Music, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. Music of Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, and more performed by Lucy Bardo, cello; Jack Brown, baritone; Harold Lewin, piano; Michael Sussman, clarinet; Masako Yanagita, violin. \$15 at door; call in advance for guaranteed seating: (413) 229-3126.

Tuesday, September 19: Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, September 23:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Ralph Sweet. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385.

Sunday, September 24: Dedication service for Heidi Haverkamp as lay pastor, Monterey United Church of Christ, 10:00 a.m. Reception follows. All welcome.

Saturday, September 30: Hazardous household waste collection, Great Barrington transfer station, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. See p. 7.

The Observer

July 26–August 25, 2000

High temp. (8/10) 87°
Low temp. (8/21) 43°
Avg. high temp. 75.4°
Avg. low temp. 56.8°
Avg. temp. 66.1°
Total precipitation 5.29"
Precipitation occurred on 19 days

Transfer Station Hours

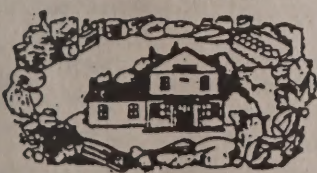
Sunday 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Labor Day ... 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Contributors

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recently received from

Helen & Donald Kohaner
Consuelo Villa and S. Marcus
Shelton and Neal Stafford
James and Julie Johnston
James Bogdanoff
Donna Brallier-Lincoln
Elizabeth Cox
Larry Heald and Deborah Rankin
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Lillie Barnett and Ida Weitz
Chao Ying Chang
Andrew Scheffey
Mark and Joan Abramowitz
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

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*Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16; Glynis Oliver, pp. 12, 17.*

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